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Mining Man of the Month

GILBERT CLARENCE MONTURE, O.B.E., D.Sc.

Dr. G. C. Monture has undoubtedly one of the most distinguished records of anyone ever engaged in Canadian mining. Not content with graduation from Queen's University in 1921 as a Bachelor of Science in mining and metallurgy, he took extra-mural courses in business finance, commercial law, economics, accounting, and commercial geography.

"Slim", as he is popularly known, was born in Tuscarora Township, Ontario, August 27th, 1896. He served overseas as a lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Field Artillery in World War I and on his return spent one year in underground mining before re-entering Queen's to complete the course commenced in 1914. In 1921 he organized and managed the University Employment Service along with the University Co-operative Bookstore. This was the first student employment service to operate in Canada.

In 1923 he was appointed editor of publications of the Dominion Department of Mines, a position he retained for the following 16 years. From May 1939 to July 1940 he was chief of the Division of Mineral Economics, Mines Branch, Ottawa. He was seconded to the Department of Munitions and Supply and served as executive assistant to the Metals Controller until December 1943, following which he was Canadian Executive Officer of the Combined Production and Resources Board at Washington. From December 1945 until June 1956 he was chief of the Mineral Resources Division, Mines Branch, Ottawa, with the exception of the period February 1951 to August 1952 when he was seconded to the Department of Defence Production to serve with the Canadian team in Washington as officer in charge of the metals and minerals section. He resigned from government service in June 1956 and two months later was appointed vice-president of Stratmat Ltd., which position he continues to hold with office at 610 - 56 Sparks Street, Ottawa.

He has officially represented Canada at many international conferences and was mineral economist at the British Commonwealth Scientific Conference, London, 1946, and meetings of the International Tin Study Group in Washington, London, The Hague, Paris, Geneva, London, Geneva, and London over a ten-year period. His numerous representations on behalf of Canada have taken him to New York, Paris, Malaya, Indonesia, Jamaica, Israel, Ghana, Equador, and in 1960 to the Philippine Islands and Singapore as consultant for United Nations Special Fund Projects.

Dr. Monture was awarded the O.B.E. in 1946 and was presented with the honorary degree of Doctor of Science by the University of Western Ontario in 1948. In 1957 he received the Indian Achievement Award of the Indian Council Fire for notable contributions in his field, the first Canadian Indian to be so honored. (The Indian Council Fire was founded in 1923 as an organization of Indians and interested friends to function along social service, legislative, and educational lines. In 1923 it established the annual award to honor Indians who have made notable contributions in all fields of endeavor.) In 1958 he was made honorary chief of the Mohawk tribe of the Six Nations at Brantford; with the name "Ahs-to-sera-gowash", meaning "Big Feather."

He is a member of the C. I. M., the A. I. M. E., the Rideau Club of Ottawa, and the Engineers Club of Toronto. He is currently serving on the mineral economics committee of the A. I. M. E., Council of Queen's University, and the executive committee of the Indian-Eskimo Association of Canada. He is a director of the Queen's Alumni Association.

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